

Covenant Protestant Reformed Church Ballymena, NI

11 May, 2009

Dear saints
in the Protestant Reformed Churches,

After 21 years of meeting in rented accommodation, we will very soon begin construction of our own church building. Indeed, by the time that most of you read this letter, work on the foundations should have started. 25 May is the scheduled date, though it is possible that yet more government bureaucracy and red tape will delay things further! Our thanks to you for the £101,180.44 (approximately \$150,000) that was raised through offerings in the Protestant Reformed Churches and was transferred to us on 25 April. Your ongoing financial assistance is of great help as we seek to fund this project. Pictures of the progress of the work on the land we own will be posted online (www.cprf.co.uk/articles/building.htm).

The CPRC services are now being recorded via a camcorder and are available on DVD. This is of benefit not only to those who receive recordings of our services each week and to others who prefer DVDs to CDs, but also to those in the “cryroom,” for a cable runs from the camcorder to a TV so that those there with small children can now see and hear. The camcorder has led to the creation of the CPRC YouTube site (www.youtube.com/cprcni), with the help of Bill Whyte, who has been attending our services with his family for some time. As yet we only have one sermon and two debates on there—converting DVDs to 10-minute YouTube slots is a lengthy process—but we hope to add materials in the days ahead.

In the last two months, I’ve delivered more lectures on “John Calvin’s Battle for the Reformation.” Both parts were given in South Wales: “Part I - His Influence and Early Life” (20 March) and “Part II - The Geneva Years” (7 May). “Part II” was delivered both in Portadown in Northern Ireland (27 March) and in Limerick in the Republic of Ireland (13 April). The former was especially well attended—perhaps in part through an article in the *Portadown Times* (20 March)—and saw a lot of books and tapes sold.

Both lectures on “John Calvin’s Battle for the Reformation” are also to be given in Lisbon, Portugal (3 and 4 June) with Nuno Pinheiro, whom some of you know from the 2008 British Reformed Fellowship Conference, translating them into Portuguese. Mary and I had booked flights for Portugal for our 9th wedding anniversary and Nuno asked me to speak on Calvin when we were there. One never knows what doors the Lord will open! Nuno and his wife, Alina, stayed with Mary and me (30 April – 4 May). We had a wonderful time with them and used the occasion to invite the congregation to the manse for a barbecue (1 May).

It was great to have Jordan Van Baren from Hudsonville PRC stay with us (4-6 April) when he was in the UK for business. Sam, Manuel, and Emily-Kate, the three young adults from the Limerick Reformed Fellowship (LRF), were with us for a long weekend (10-13 April). This contact between the saints of the CPRC and those of the LRF is of service in strengthening our bonds in the gospel of Christ.

Martyn McGeown is to be in Northern Ireland from 27 May to 29 June. We're looking forward to having him back, even if it is for a short while, for he has to return to the US by 1 July for his internship in SW PRC. Martyn is to lead eight CPRC services on four consecutive Sundays when he is here. This enables Mary and me to go to Limerick, where I'm to preach for the LRF those Sundays and deliver a couple of lectures.

Our languages page, consisting of translations of our creeds and various PR materials, continues to grow (www.cprf.co.uk/languages.htm). Chief among the highlights is Renat Ilyasov's Russian translation of the first half of Rev. Ron Hanko's *Doctrine According to Godliness*. Our thanks to Renat and the folk at the RFPA for making this available to us. We even have our first Irish translation on-line, a piece

against free will. A new translator, a brother from Malawi, has come onboard. He has sent us a piece in Sena and also plans to translate into Chewa for us.

Subscribers to the *Covenant Reformed News* continue to increase, and RFPA book sales are fast emptying our shelves. With the catechism and Bible study season over, tonight we're starting family visitation. May the Lord use it for the edification of the body here! Recent sermon series include "Keeping the Sabbath in Babylon" (Is. 56) and "The Two Mountains" (Heb. 12:18-29). This is all the news I can think of for now. May the Lord bless and keep you all. Please, pray for us.

In Christ,
Rev. & Mary Stewart